

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 02440 060208Z

10
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

SAM-01 OMB-01 /061 W
----- 038306

R 060030Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3300
INFO COMUSSAG NKP THAILAND
CINCPAC HONOLULU
COMIPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 2440

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION EMBASSY SAIGON INFO USDAO SAIGON
MAR 5, H/W REPEATED TO YOU. QTE:

C O N F I D E N T I K L NHA TRANG 0127

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS
SUBJECT: COMMUNISTS ATTACKS IN NORTHERN MR-2

REF: NHA TRANG 0124, 0123

1. A RASH OF COMMUNIST-INITIATED MILITARY ACTIONS HIT NORTHERN MR-2 ON MARCH 4 AND 5. THE ATTACKS FOLLOWED THE PATTERN ANTICIPATED FOR SOME TIME BY GVN INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS: LOC'S (NOTABLY, QL-19 BETWEEN QUI NHON AND PLEIKU, WHICH HAS BEEN EFFECTIVELY INTERDICTED) WERE HIT IN NUMEROUS PLACES, AND AIRFIELDS WERE SHELLED TO IMPEDE VNAF AIR RETALIATION. A WRAP-UP OF SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS IN BINH DINH, PLEIKU, KONTUM, AND KHANH HOA FOLLOWS.

2. IN BINH DINH, THE BULK OF THE FIGHTING WAS ON OR NEAR QL-19 IN BINH KHE AND AN TUC DISTRICTS.

(1) AT 0620 HRS ON MAR 4, BRIDGE 12 ON QL-19 AT BR 714405,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 02440 060208Z

SECURED BY THE 94 PF PLT LATER REINFORCED BY 2 OTHER PF PLTS,OZQWAS C

COMPLETELY BLOWN UP BE COMMUNIST SAPPERS, WHO KILLED 2 PF, WOUNDED 3, AND SEIZED 3 M-16'S. HOWEVER, ARVN ENGINEERS REPAIRED THE ROAD AS OF 0100 HRS ON MR 5, AND TRAFFIC WAS RESPORED.

(2) AT 0620 HRS ON MAR 4, A COMMUNIST FORCE OVERRAN AN OUTPOST OF THE 3RD AND 4TH COS OF THE 218TH RF BN AND THE 2ND, 3RD, AND 4TH COS OF THE 209TH RF BN AT BR 646483 NORTH OF QL-19. THE RESULTS OF THIS CONTACT ARE NOT YET KNOWN.

(3) AT 0755 HRS ON MAR 4, AT BR 711448, A COMMUNIST FORCE ATTACKED THE HQS OF THE 2ND BN OF THE 47TH ARVN REGT. RADIO CONTACT WITH THE HQS HAS BEEN LOST, AND RESULTS OF THE CONTACT ARE NOT KNOWN.

(4) AT 0730 HRS ON MAR 4, AT BR 552495 NORTH OF QL-19, A COMMUNIST FORCE ATTACKED THE 4TH CO/3RD BN OF THE 47TH REGT, BUT WAS REPULSED WITH 2 COMMUNIST KIA AND ONE AK LOST.

(5) AT 0830 HRS ON MAR 4, AT BR 576434 NEAR QL-19, THE 218TH RF BN CLASHED WITH A COMMUNIST FORCE SUFFERING 1 KIA AND 2 WIA; THE COMMUNISTS LOST 12 KIA, AN M-60 MACHINE GUN, 2 AK'S, A RADIO, 20 HAND GRENADES, 15 ROUNDS OF B-41 AMMO, AND 2 BLOCKS OF EXPLOSIVE CHARGES.

(6) AT 0650 HRS ON MAR 4, AT BR 638453 SOUTH OF QL-19, THE HQS OF THE 47TH REGT TOOK 82-MM MORTAR FIRE SUSTAINING 1 KIA AND 15 WIA.

(7) AT 1435 HRS ON MAR 4, THE COMMUNIST LAUNCHED TWO 122-MM ROCKETS INTO A RESIDENTIAL AREA IN AN TUC DISTRICT TOWN INJURING ONE CIVILIAN.

(8) FROM 1045 HRS TO 1130 HRS ON MAR 4, COMMUNIST GUNNERS FIRED ELEVEN 82-MM MORTAR SHELLS INTO A RESIDENTIAL AREA IN BINH KHE DISTRICT TOWN WOUNDING 5 CIVILIANS.

(9) AT 0030 HRS ON MAR 5 AT BR 810420 NORTH OF QL-19, THE 101ST PF PLT CLASHED WITH A COMMUNIST FORCE RESULTING IN 5 COMMUNISTS KILLED AND ONE AK SEIZED.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 02440 060208Z

(10) IT HAS ALSO BEEN REPORTED THAT GVN OUTPOSTS AT BR 619495, BR 637494, AND BR 655475 HAVE BEEN OVERRUN. NO DETAILS ON THESE INCIDENTS ARE AVAILABLE.

(11) AT 0600 HRS ON MAR 5, TEN 122-MM ROCKETS HIT PHU CAT AIRBASE. REPORTEDLY THERE WERE NO PERSONNEL CASUALTIES, BUT SOME POL WAS DESTROYED.

(12) SEVERAL SMALL COMMUNIST ABF'S AND GROUND ATTACKS ALSO OCCURRED IN TAM QUAN AND HOAI NHON DISTRICTS.

(13) REPORTEDLY THE UNITS INVOLVED IN THE ATTACKS ON QL-19 ARE ELEMENTS OF THE 3RD NVA DIV.

3. IN PLEIKU, THE BULK OF THE FIGHTING BROKE OUT ON OR NEAR QL-19 IN EASTERN LE TRUNG DISTRICT.

(1) AT 0700 HRS ON MAR 4, ON QL-19 AT BR 070503, A COMMUNIST FORCE ATTACKED THE 2ND CO OF THE 223RD RF BN. THIRTY MINUTES LATER RADIO CONTACT WITH THE RF WAS LOST; NO RESULTS OF THIS CLASH HAVE BEEN REPORTED AS YET.

(2) AT THE SAME TIME, THE COMMUNISTS DESTROYED BRIDGE 31 AT BR 096552 ON QL-19. TRAFFIC WAS HALTED.

(3) AT 0930 HRS ON MAR 4, THE COMMUNISTS DESTROYED BRIDGE 30 AT BR 144535 ON QIOAQOM TRAFFIC WAS HALTED.

(4) AT 0800 HRS ON MAR 4, AT BR 078550 ON QL-19, THE COMMUNISTS BLEW UP A CULVERT. TRAFFIC WAS HALTED.

(5) AFTER MORTARING THE AREA, THE COMMUNISTS AT 2000 HRS ON MAR 4 ATTACKED THE 98TH PF PLT AT BR 186521 ON QL-19. RESULTS OF THIS CONTACT HAVE NOT YET BEEN REPORTED, ALTHOUGH IT IS KNOWN THAT BRIDGE 29 AT BR 188520 HAS BEEN DAMAGED.

(6) IT HAS ALSO BEEN REPORTED THAT BRIDGE 32 AT BR 060540 AND A CULVERT AT BR 170519 HAVE BEEN DESTROYED, AND THAT ANOTHER CULVERT AT BR 043510 WAS DAMAGED. NO DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAIGON 02440 060208Z

(7) AT 0700 HRS ON MAR 4, THE COMMUNISTS MORTARED AND THEN LAUNCHED A GROUND ATTACK AT FSB 94 AT BR 135540 JUST NORTH OF QL-19. RADIO CONTACT WITH THE OUTPOST, WHICH WAS MANNED BY THE 1ST CO/279TH RF BN AND SEVERAL SUPPORT UNITS, WAS LOST AT 0930 HRS. IT IS KNOWN THAT 2 GVN APC-M113'S WERE DESTROYED. NO FURTHER DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE.

(8) AT THE SAME TIME, AT BR 040539 ON QL-19, THE COMMUNISTS LOBBED 82-MM MORTAR AT FSB 93 MANNED BY THE 223RF BN, WOUNDING 3.

(9) AT 1645 HRS ON MAR 4, THE COMMUNISTS LAUNCHED ATY LEAYO 22 ROKUDS OF 122-MM ROCKETS AT CU HANH (PLEIKU) AIRBASE, WOUNDING

3 MILITARY MEN, DESTROYING 5 HOUSES AND 5,000 LITERS OF POL,
AND DAMAGING 10 AIRPLANE ENGINES, 2 A-37'S AND ONE UH1.

(10) SEVERAL MSALL CONTACTS ALSO TOOK PLACE IN THE VICINITY
OF THANH AN.

(11) REPORTEDLY THE UNITS INVOLVED IN THE ATTACKS ON QL-19
ARE ELEMENTS OF THE 95B NVA REGT.

4. KONTUM SAW BOTH A ROCKET ATTACK AGAINSTHQONTUM CITY AND A
MAJOR GROUND CONTACT ON MAR 4. AT 0445 HRS, THE COMMUNISTS
LAUNCHED THIRTEEN 122-MM ROCKETS AGAINST THE CITY. THE ROCKETS
IMPACTED NEAR AN ARMY RECRUITMENT AND INDUCTION CENTER, NEAR THE
19TH ARMORED CAV HQS, AND IN A RESIDENTIAL AREA (ONE ROCKET
LANDED IN FRONT OF THE THE PROVINCE CHIEF'S HOUSE). ONE CIVILIAN
WAS KILLED, 7 CIVILIANS AND 2 SOLDIERS WERE WOUNDED, AND TWO HOUSES
WERE DAMAGED. THE GROUND CONTACT, WHICH ALSO BEGAN AT 0445 HRS
AND ENDED AT 1615 HRS, OCCURRED AT ZA 175990; THERE, THE 3RD CO
OF THE 11TH RANGER BN KILLED 23 COMMUNITIS AND SEIZED 6 AK'S
AND 2 B-40 LAUNCHERS WHILE TAKING 6 WIA AND LOSING 5 WEAPONS
DAMAGED.

5. FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE 1973 PEACE AGREEMENT, THE
COMMUNISTS HAVE LAUNCHED A MAJOR GROUND ATTACK IN KHANH HOA.
AT 0645 HRS ON MAR 5, AN ESTIMATED 200 COMMUNIST SOLDIERS
OVERRAN A PLATOON OF THE 4TH CO6246 RF BN AT BQ 439161 JUST
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 SAIGON 02440 060208Z

SOUTH OF QL-21. THE ROAD IS NOW INTERDICTED AT THAT POINT. ALSO
ON MAR 5, THE COMMUNISTS RLEW UP BRIDGE 25 ON QL-21 AT
BQ 522122. TRAFFIC WAS STOPPED.

6. BOTH FROM THE AIR AND ON THE GROUND, THE GVN HS BEGUN TO
CUUNTER THE COMMUNIST ATTACKS IN NORTHERN MR-2. THE
RETURNS ARE NOT YET IN, HOWEVER, ON THESE GVN OPERATIONS,
ALTHOUGH REPORTEDLY VNAF AIRSTRIKES HAVE KILLED 30 COMMUNISTS
15 KM NORTHWEST OF BINH KHE IN BINH DINH. SPEAR UNQTE
LEHMANN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMBAT CASUALTIES, COMBAT ZONES, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SAIGON02440
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750078-0146
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750376/aaaacqka.tel
Line Count: 211
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 NHA TRANG 0124, 75 0123
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 JUL 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <20 NOV 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMUNISTS ATTACKS IN NORTHERN MR-2
TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, VS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006